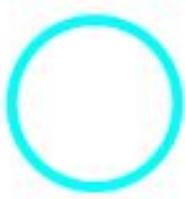


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Tuesday, November 24, 2020

2 PM NYC / 8 PM Zagreb / 10:30 PM Tehran

GPS Chats:

**Close Encounters of a Dance Kind
(Croatia/Iran/USA)**

Participants:

mayfield brooks (USA)

Saghar Hosseinpour (Iran)

Silvia Marchig (Croatia)

Kayvon Pourazar (USA/Iran)

Sonja Pregrad (Croatia)

Zrinka Šimičić Mihanović (Croatia)

María Wethers (USA)

Audio Description: Marielys Burgos Meléndez (Puerto Rico/USA)

ASL Interpretation: Candace Davider and Francesca Short, LC Interpreting Services (USA)

Technical Coordinator: Marko Gutić Mižimakov (Croatia)

Event Description

[Virtual] Movement Research Festival in New York City and Improspekcije Festival (Antisezona) in Zagreb, Croatia present GPS Chats: Close Encounters of a Dance Kind (Croatia/Iran/USA), an online and live meeting format that combines the artist talk format of GPS Chats and an improvised-interview-performance format of Close Encounters of a Dance Kind, developed by the Antisezona team.

This is also the first meeting of seven artists and cultural producers from Croatia, Iran, and US involved in the OPEN Exchange Residency, which tries to establish communication, exchange, and artistic and cultural dialogue among these three locations and contexts. The OPEN Exchange Residency was originally planned to happen in Zagreb, Croatia in May 2020, but due to this year's events, an online meeting has been organized for November 2020 with the live residency rescheduled for 2021.

We are happy to join some of the artists we have been working with already together with some new ones, and hear their voices, questions and proposals for movement.



Bios

mayfield brooks (USA) improvises while black, and is currently based in brooklyn, new york on lenapehoking land, the homeland of the lenape people. mayfield is a movement-based performance artist, vocalist, urban farmer, writer, and wanderer. they are currently an artist in residence at the center for performance research (cpr) and abrons arts center in new york city/lenapehoking, is faculty at movement research nyc and the editor-in-chief of the movement research performance journal. mayfield teaches and performs practices that arise from their life/art/movement work, *improvising while black (iwb)*.

Saghar Hosseinpour (Iran) was born in Tehran on January 7, 1986. She was about 19 when she began to dance in a very amateur experimental way while she was studying economics at the university. The possibility to travel and work with several artists in the form of workshops, residencies and research along with the experience of living in a multi layered society full of barriers are factors around her area of interest that led her to oppose and ask questions about the act of Dancing. Soon after she started a practice-based research project to define her own proposal about it, that has continued to this day and parts of it have been shared with the audience in the form of performance too. Her field of practice and research is somewhere in-between Dance and Urban Architecture. She proposes making an unpredictable physical situation by functionality of momentary confrontation as a way to emerge dance simultaneously for the dancer and for the spectator. This

also makes her eager to manipulate the imagined and built public spaces and design a new space for passing bodies. These days she is involved with the concept of "space" even deeper and continues her work with questions such as: How does motion produce space? Is it possible to create space while playing? Instead of imagining a space to play, then create it?

Silvia Marchig (born in Rijeka, Croatia 1975) - dance artist, performer, dance pedagogue, artistic director of Kik Melone company, living and working in Zagreb. Received classical dance training in the Croatian National Theatre Ivan pl. Zajc, Rijeka, Palucca Schule Dresden and Akademie des Tanzes in Mannheim, where she graduated. After several years of dancing in companies in Croatia and Germany, she started her authorship experiments in 2002. Exploring strategies of performativity and different theories of reality, engages with various performing artists, authors and groups in Croatia (Trafik, IMRC, Marmot and Fourhanded.) In 2008 founded Kik Melone Company, develops its poetics and methodologies in co-authorship with musicians, dance-, theatre- and new media artists, creates through collaborations many works in different experimental formats, performed in Croatia and abroad, some of them rewarded. As a choreographer, engaged regularly with mixed abled dance company DIVERT, creating dance and performance pieces. One of the initiators and facilitators of ANTISEZONA, self-curation project, together with Ana Kreitmeyer, Sonja Pregrad and Iva Nerina Sibila, in collaboration with Museum for Contemporary Art in Zagreb, as well as many other initiatives for improving life and working conditions for dance community in Croatia and further. She is a regular teacher of classical ballet at Franjo Lučić Art School in Velika Gorica. Website: <http://kikmelone.hr/>

Kayvon Pourazar (USA/Iran) is of Persian origin, and spent his formative years in Iran, Turkey and England. Kayvon immigrated to the US in 1995, graduated from SUNY Purchase in May 2000 and has resided in NYC ever since. He has performed in the works of Ivy Baldwin, Michelle Boulé, Beth Gill, Lily Gold, Levi Gonzalez, K.J. Holmes, John Jasperse, Heather Kravas, Juliette Mapp, Gabriel Masson, Juliana May, Jodi Melnick, Jennifer Monson, RoseAnne Spradlin, Wil Swanson, Donna Uchizono, Doug Varone, Gwen Welliver, Yasuko Yokoshi, Yaa Samar Dance Theater and The Metropolitan Opera productions of Les Troyens and Le Sacre du Printemps. Kayvon's ventures into making dances have been shown in New York City at Danspace Project (Food for Thought), The Kitchen (Dance & Process), P.S. 122 (Hothouse), The Cunningham Studios, Roulette (DanceRoulette), Center for Performance Research, Catch, AUNTS, Dixon Place as well as the Universities of Nebraska, Vermont and Sacramento State. In 2010 he received a New York Dance & Performance "Bessie" Award for Performance. He has served as Adjunct Faculty at Bennington College and The New School, teaches regularly for Movement Research and has taught as guest artist for Tsekh Russia (Moscow) and Workshop Foundation (Budapest).

Sonja Pregrad (Croatia) is a dance artist, performer, organizer and collaborator, being based in between Zagreb (Croatia) and Berlin (Germany). Growing up in an East-European, ex-socialist country, is probably one of the things that shaped her understanding of art as always relational, collective and contextualized endeavor. She has been involved in different grass-root initiatives within the art community of Zagreb. She is a founder and producer of the festival Improspekcije (since 2007), Fourhanded artistic platform and Antisezona program at Contemporary Art Museum. In her work as a choreographer, dance is always thought of as a relational gesture, her choreography extending from re-inventing body-based practices to re-appropriating performance formats. Sonja made works on her own and developed different long-term artistic collaborations, performing her work internationally. She received Croatian Theatre Award for the best female performance and the best work in total, two collective Croatian Dance Union Awards and a special mention at the 26th Slavonian biennale. As a performer she has been working with choreographers Meg Stuart, Isabelle

Schad, visual artist Sanja Iveković, and others.

Zrinka Šimičić Mihanović (Croatia) is a dance artist, certified SME (Somatic Movement Educator), IDME (Infant Developmental Movement Educator) and CMA –SP (Certified Movement Analyst – Somatic Practitioner). She obtained her M.A. degree in History of Art and French Language and Literature at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. She has been active as an author and choreographer since 2003, and has collaborated with a number of Croatian

as well as foreign authors. Her choreographic work has been starkly marked with collaborations with artists from different media, particularly visual arts. Since 2007 she has been artistic co-director of Improspekcije (Improspections), an international improvisation festival in Zagreb, she initiated SomaHut platform targeted at connecting and exchanging information and benefits of somatic work and co-founded Multimedijalna koliba (Multimedia Hut) organization. She is a faculty member of the Dance department of the Academy of Dramatic Art in Zagreb and she teaches in the Postgraduate Specialist Study of Creative Therapies programme of The Academy of Arts and Culture in Osijek. Website: <https://multimedijalnakoliba.hr/en/zrinka-simicic-mihanovic-2/>

María Wethers (USA) is the Director of the GPS/Global Practice Sharing program at Movement Research. From 2007-2014, she worked in the Programming Department at New York Live Arts (formerly Dance Theater Workshop/DTW) as the International Project Director of the Suitcase Fund program, where she created a cultural exchange program between contemporary dance artists in Africa (Burkina Faso, Kenya, Madagascar, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe), the Middle East (Lebanon and Palestine) and the U.S., and managed the program activities and network of partners in Eastern/Central Europe. María also works as an Independent Creative Producer & Curator, and is a NY Dance & Performance “Bessie” Award winning performer (Outstanding Performance with Skeleton Architecture, 2017).

Marielys Burgos Meléndez (Puerto Rico/USA) (Audio Description) - I am an artistic researcher, healer, and writer from Borikén (Puerto Rico). *Embodied knowledge and intuition are the foundation of my artistic-spiritual exploration.* Since 2014, I have been investigating the poetics of mobility/migration which led to the decolonial excavation of my afro arawak identity & ancestry. I obtained a B.A., double major in Psychology and Sociology, an M.A in Dance Studies. My education also includes diverse somatic/ embodiment practices and different modalities of Yoga, and studies in Reiki (Jin Kei Do lineage) and Mindfulness; currently pursuing a Certificate in Contemplative Psychotherapy -based on Mahayana Tradition/ Tantric Buddhism-. My work in Audio Description (AD) emerged and has developed through an ongoing collaboration with NYC-based visually impaired and blind dancers/ choreographers. In 2019, I completed an initial 30 hour program in Audio Description and continue to explore this access tool beyond traditional parameters. My work has been shared in Mexico, Greece, Cyprus, Belgium, Puerto Rico, Scotland, and NYC. Website: www.marielysbn.com

Marko Gutić Mižimakov (Croatia) (Technical Coordinator), b.1992 holds an MA degree in New Media from the Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb. He works, plays, researches and experiments through video, 3D animation, performance and installation. He differentiates between digital and virtual and is drawn to topics from and of the body. His collaborators are often performing artists. He works and lives in Zagreb where he recently initiated the project Čvorište / The Hub – a virtual exhibiting space in a magazine form accompanied by a program of experimental, ephemeral and hybrid art practices, hosted by G-MK. Since December 2014 he is a close acquaintance of The Best.

About the Organizations

Improspekcije is an initiative, started in 2007, dedicated to the development and affirmation of the improvisation scene in Croatia, as well as organizing international and interdisciplinary exchange in the field of improvised performance. The project takes place through the form of performances, workshops, research platforms and ongoing open conversations and it culminates in an annual festival format. Each year's festival brings forth a topic or a question, and this year it is how the improvised, somatic and open work can inform and support us in the current intensities of global and local contexts. Website:

<https://improspekcije.com/en/>

ANTISEZONA is a collaborative (self-)curation and organization project of five Croatian dance artists and the organizations and initiatives they are a part of, creating an ongoing program of presenting contemporary dance and performance at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Zagreb, Croatia.

Website: <https://antisezona.wordpress.com>

Multimedia Hut (Multimedia Hut) is an artistic organization that gathers authors from diverse fields of art – contemporary dance, sound design and radiophonic art, visual arts, theatre, literature ... – with an aim to create joint projects and inspire inter-media and interdisciplinary collaboration in the field of contemporary dance/improvisation, radiophonic theatre and somatics as an approach to body and movement, but also to a wider socio-political activity through art. Website:

<https://multimedijalnakoliba.hr>

Movement Research is one of the world's leading laboratories for the investigation of dance and movement-based forms. Valuing the individual artist, their creative process and their vital role within society, Movement Research is dedicated to the creation and implementation of free and low-cost programs that nurture and instigate discourse and experimentation. Movement Research strives to reflect the cultural, political and economic diversity of its moving community, including artists and audiences alike.

The [Virtual] Movement Research Festival, like many events happening this year, looks a bit different. Rather than condensing a series of in-person events, workshops and performances into a five day period in December, a series of GPS Chats will be scheduled throughout the coming months. We hope you'll join us in exploring this new format, and connect with artists around the globe.

The GPS/Global Practice Sharing program provides a platform for the international exchange of ideas, processes and reflective practices surrounding dance and movement-based forms between the U.S. and independent performing arts communities internationally. GPS posits that dialogue

across differences nec

essarily catalyzes the generation of new knowledge and creative innovation. By investing in the mobility of artists, curators and cultural workers, GPS advances cross cultural understanding and the development of the contemporary arts field at large. Officially established in 2016, GPS consists of an informal network of partners currently supporting exchange projects in East and Central Europe (ECE) and now the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

GPS Chats is a series offering GPS artists in residence a platform to share about their creative practice and living and working as independent contemporary dance artists in their cultural contexts. The series features international artists in conversation with local artists about the importance of international cultural exchange on the development of their creative practices.

The GPS/Global Practice Sharing program is supported, in part, with generous support from the Trust for Mutual Understanding and the Blanchette Hooker Rockefeller Fund.



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